**Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy**

**Department of Education**

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May 4, 2020

Dear Kwiyagatu Community Academy:

As Head of School for the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy, I am honored to express support and enthusiasm for the Kwiyagatu Community Academy. When it opens in Fall 2021, The Kwiyagatu Community Academy, a proposed Ute Mountain Ute language and culture charter school in Towaoc, Colorado, will be an important and critical new addition to the educational services in the Montezuma County region of Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute community. The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy is excited to work together with the Executive Committee of the Kwiyagatu Community Academy to build the supportive partnership needed to have a great school.

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy believes that we can aid in the development of the school by providing (1) Ute culture and language curriculum and instruction consulting; (2) insights into facility and playground design (including classroom, food services, administrative areas), (3) sharing of Parent and Staff Handbooks, Governing Polices, Teacher and Aid Evaluation templates, School District MOU on student enrollment and transfer agreements and (4) other administrative practices essential to a high quality Ute language and culture elementary school. These consulting services will combine in-kind and paid consulting services starting in the Summer 2020 and continue on an agreed number of consultations until school start up in Fall 2021.

In addition, the Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy agrees to provide on-going consulting as needed in identified areas once the Kwiyagatu Community Academy is operational. In particular, the Ute culture, language and historical curriculum will be refined and operationalized. Furthermore, specific consultation will continue with our expert teachers in elementary language, math and cultural Montessori materials and lessons on regular and agreed upon basis.

Understanding the Kwiyagatu Community Academy values (1) Ute Cultural and Language, (2) Academic Achievement, (3) Character and Wellness and (4) Community Connections we feel that our support is critical and an essential part of making this an excellent school.

Sincerely,

Mari Jo Owens

Mari Jo Owens,
Principal,
Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy
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